

VISIT...

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Name _____

Main Idea and Details

- The **main idea** is the most important idea about the topic of a paragraph, passage, or article.
- **Supporting details** are the small pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.

Directions Reread the following passage adapted from *The Power of Our People*. Then answer the questions below.

In many ways, the Declaration of Independence set the stage for our Constitution. The Constitution is the highest law in the United States. All other laws come from it. The Constitution describes how our government works. It also explains the rights and responsibilities enjoyed by each citizen. If it weren't for our Constitution, we wouldn't have a President,

Congress, or the Supreme Court.

The Constitution is called a "living document." That means that it can be changed to work today as well as in the 1700s. The U.S. Constitution uses simple language to describe our government. It is the oldest written set of governing principles for the United States in use today. It is also short, at about 4,500 words!

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

2. What is one supporting detail in the first paragraph that tells about the main idea?

3. What is another supporting detail in that paragraph that tells about the main idea?

4. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?

5. What is one supporting detail that tells more about this main idea?

Name _____

Vocabulary

Directions Fill in the blank with the word from the box that fits the definition.

Check the Words You Know

___amendments	___bicameral
___compromised	___confederation
___politics	___ratified
___representatives	___responsibilities
___sovereignty	___unanimously

- _____ supremacy of authority or rule
- _____ approved and given formal sanction to
- _____ composed of two legislative branches
- _____ a political union of persons, parties, or states
- _____ in a manner reflecting complete agreement
- _____ the art or science of government or governing
- _____ formal revisions to a document
- _____ settled by concessions, or agreements to give in part-way
- _____ delegates or agents acting on behalf of others
- _____ things for which one must be accountable

Directions Write a brief paragraph about the U.S. Constitution, using as many vocabulary words as possible.
